

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 EB-11 TRSE-00

NEA-10 COME-00 FMC-04 CG-00 DRC-01 /193 W

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R 301602Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4904

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: ADS DECLAS 10/30/74

TAGS: ETRN, MT, LY

SUBJ: SEA MALTA

REF: A. VALLETTA 2066(NOTAL) B. VALLETTA 2119 (NOTAL)

1. PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF MOVED RESOLUTION IN PARLIAMENT OCT .29 TO APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SHIPPING COMPANY TO BE KNOWN AS SEA MALTA COMPANY LTD. THE NEW COMPANY WOULD BE 51 PERCENT OWNED BY THE MALTA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MDC); 25 PERCENT BY THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT; 7 PERCENT BY A BRITISH OWNED LOCAL FIRM, CROSS CONTINENT SHIPHOLDING (FORMERLY MALTA CROSS CONTINENT CONTAINERS); AND 17 PERCENT BY THE MALTESE PUBLIC. MINTOFF SAID SEA MALTA WILL HAVE SEVEN DIRECTORS, INCLUDING ALBERT MIZZI AS CHAIRMAN (ALSO CHAIRMAN OF AIR MALTA); MR. D. HOWELL OF CROSS CONTINENT; MR. PHILLIP GUETZ OF THE FRENCH SHIPPING CONCERN CHARGES REUNIS; MR. W. AQUILINA, FORMERLY GEN MGR OF CROSS CONTINENT CONTAINERS; MR. ALFRED

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CALLEJA(AIR MALTA); MR. J. AGIUS (MDC AND AIR MALTA)? AND

MR. VM. FALZON (PM'S OFFICE). SEA MALTA ALREADY HAS THREE
1,000 TON MERCHANT SHIPS AT IS DISPOSAL.

2. MINTOFF SAID NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LARG HAVE NOT RPT NOT
YET BEEN FINALIZED. GUETZ HAS SERVED AS A CONSULTANT ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF SEA MALTA, HIS SERVICES WERE PROVIDED FREE
OF CHARGE BY HSI FIRM. CROSS CONTINENT WILL MAKE
AVAILABLE TO THE NEW FIRM ITS CLIENTS AND AMNAGERIAL EXPERTISE.

3. MINTOFF ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A NAVIGATION SCHOOL, SPONSORED
BY SEA MALTA, WILL BE OPENED SHORTLY. HE EXPLAINED SEA MALTA
IS INTENDED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED
AIR MALTA IN PROVIDIND COORDINATED SURFACE AND AIR
TRANSPORTATION FACILITES TO AND FROM MALTA.

4. DECLARING THESE ARE TIMES OF
CHANGE FOR MALTA,
MINTOFF REVEALED TO PARLIAMENT THAT THE GOM
IS ALSO NEGOTIATING WITH REDIFFUSION TO TAKE OVER ALL BROADCASTING
SYSTEMS IN MALTA (SEE REF A). HE ADDED NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING HELD
WITH AN ITALIAN COMPANY ON THE SETTING UP OF A FOUNDRY (SEE
REF B)

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY THE OPPOSITION REGARDING THE
PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF ADEVELOPMENT FINANCE COMPANY WITH
WORLD BANK SUPPORT WHICH WAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED IN MALTAJ'S
NEW SEVEN YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, MINTOFF SAID THE IBRD
HAD TURNED DOWN THE GOM'S PROPOSAL IN THIS REGARD.

6. COMMENT: SEA MALTA IS ONE MORE ILLUSTRATION OF
THE MALTA LABOR PARTY ADMINISTRATION'S ABILITY TO SQUEEZE
SOMETHING FOR NOTHING OUT OF ITS ADVOCATES AND ADVERSARIES. IN THS
CASE, THE LIBYAN ARE PRESUMABLY PROVIDING THE CAPITAL WHILE
BRITISH AND FRENCH ASSOCIATES ARE FURNISHING SHIPS
MARKET AND MANAGERIAL EXPERTISE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, LABOR RELATIONS, TELECOMMUNICATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VALLET02140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973104/aaaaacij.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. VALLETTA 2066(NOTAL) B. VALLETTA, 2119 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEA MALTA
TAGS: ETRN, MT, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005